

# ACUTE AND CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE

## Liver blood tests

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The liver performs a myriad of biochemical, metabolic and immunological functions. Anhepatic humans survive for 24–48 hours. It is the only organ in the body that regenerates. Awareness of currently available liver blood tests and their significance is essential ( Table 69.1 ). Main functions of the liver

Maintaining core body temperature pH balance and correction of lactic acidosis Synthesis of clotting factors Glucose metabolism, glycolysis and gluconeogenesis Urea formation from protein catabolism Bilirubin formation from haemoglobin after breakdown of effete red cells in the spleen Drug and hormone metabolism and excretion Removal of gut endotoxins and foreign antigens Vitamin and mineral storage, including A, D, E, K and B12 Immunological function as part of the mononuclear phagocyte system Albumin production for transport of fatty acids, steroids and waste products Angiotensin synthesis Body temperature through heat production Cytochrome P450 detoxi

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